

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7215

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

S E C R E T JAKARTA 2853

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINS, ID

SUBJECT: YOGJAKARTA STUDENT DISTURBANCES

REF: A. SURABAYA 89, B STATE 53663

1. AMCONSUL SURABAYAINFORMS US THAT "KNOWLEDGEABLE INDONESIANS" CITED REF A AS BELIEVING SECURITY FORCES WOULD FIRE DIRECTLY ON STUDENTS WERE GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBER AND STUDENTS, WHO WERE NOT IN POSITION TO KNOW SECURITY FORCES INSTRUCTIONS OR INTENTIONS BUT WERE GIVING THEIR OPINIONS OF HOW SITUATION MIGHT EVOLVE.

2. ALTHOUGH GAJAH MADA EVENTS AND INCIDENT TODAY IN JAKARTA BEING REPORTED SEPTEL SUGGEST SECURITY FORCES ARE TAKING TOUGH STANCE, WE HAVE NO REPORTS THAT GOI POLICY OF AVOIDING STUDENT CASUALTIES HAS CHANGED. SOURCE CLOSE TO LT. GEN. ALI MURTOPO (HARRY TJAN) ASSURED US TODAY THAT MILITARY HAVE ORDERS "NOT TO CREATE STUDENT MARTYRS". THERE ARE OTHER REASONS, OF COURSE, FOR POLICY OF NOT FIRING ON STUDENTS. AMONG THEM IS FACT THAT BY SOME MILITARY ESTIMATES 30-40 PERCENT OF STUDENTS AT MAJOR UNIVERSITIES ARE CHILDREN OF MILITARY OFFICERS, MANY OF WHOM PARTICIPATE IN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. (MILITARY OFFSPRING FORM ROUGHLY ONE-FOURTH

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OF STUDENTS NOW DETAINED IN BANDUNG, ITB PROFESSOR WITH SONE IN DETENTION TOLD US.) WHEN AMBASSADOR EARLIER EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR STUDENTS' SAFETY TO FONDEPT DIRGEN FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS MAJ. GEN. ADENAN, LATTER POINTED OUT "THEY ARE OUR CHILDREN".

3. WHILE IT IS GOI POLICY TO AVOID CASUALTIES, INTELLIGENCE

COORDINATING BOARD (BAKIN) SOURCES TELL US, SECURITY FORCES ARE INSTRUCTED TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH SEEM TO BE GETTING OUT OF HAND. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF NON-AUTHORIZED, LOCAL OVER-REACTION TO STUDENT PROVOCATIONS. GADJAH MADA MAY HAVE BEEN CASE IN POINT. TROOPS THERE, WHICH SOURCES CITED REF A BELIEVE TO HAVE RETURNED FROM EASTTIMOR AND WHICH GADJAH MADA CONNECTED SOURCES HERE BELIEVED TO BE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM IRIAN JAYA, SEEM TO HAVE EMPLOYED MORE FORCE THAN THEIR COLLEAGUES IN BANDUNG AND JAKARTA. WE HAVE SEVERAL SECOND-HAND REPORTS OF ONE-TO-THREE DEATHS RESULTING FROM SHOOTING WHICH OCCURRED AT GADJAH MADA LAST SATURDAY. MOST OF THE REPORTS STATED THAT CASUALTIES WERE UNINTENTIONAL BUT ONE FACULTY SOURCE HAD SOLDIERS LEVELLING GUNS AT STUDENTS. HARRY TJAN AND BAKIN SOURCE TELL US THAT THERE WERE NO DEATHS. TRUE OR NOT, RUMORS SUCH AS THESE HEAT UP STUDENT ATMOSPHERE. BAKIN OFFICIAL AND HARRY TJAN BOTH TELL US THAT CRISIS HAS PASSED AT GADJAH MADA. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, REPORTS OF A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR MARCH 5. EMBOFF WILL BE IN YOGYAKARTA MARCH 5-6 AND WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN LATEST INFORMATION ON SITUATION.

4. TOP SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN JAKARTA ARE WELL APPRISED OF OUR GENERAL CONCERN OVER STUDENT-MILITARY CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY EVENTS IN YOGYAKARTA AND HAVE BETTER READING OF SITUATION THERE THAN
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WE. WE WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE OUR INFORMATION AND THOUGHTS WITH THEM.
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